

HOUSE RESOLUTION 5003
By Purcell

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the Commission on the
Future of the Tennessee Judicial System upon
their meritorious public service.

WHEREAS, it is especially fitting that the elected representatives of the state of
Tennessee should pause at the time of the celebration of our Bicentennial to pay tribute to those
exemplary public servants who have worked assiduously to ensure the viability of Tennessee's
judicial system into the 21st century and our third century of statehood; and

WHEREAS, stating that Tennessee's judicial system needed to be more responsive to
the changing needs of society, on November 19, 1993, the Tennessee Supreme Court appointed
a Court Executive Team to determine the advisability of a commission to examine the future of
the Tennessee Judicial System; and

WHEREAS, the Court Executive Team was comprised of: Supreme Court Justice Frank
F. Drowota, III; Mr. Charles E. Ferrell, Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts; the
Honorable Cornelia A. Clark, Circuit Court Judge for the 21st Judicial District; the Honorable C.
Creed McGinley, Circuit Court Judge for the 24th Judicial District; Judge Gary Wade; the
Honorable J.S. Steve Daniel, Circuit Court Judge for the 21st Judicial District; and Judge John J.
Maddux, Jr., Chairman; and

WHEREAS, the Court Executive Team subsequently recommended the formation of a Commission on the Future of the Tennessee Judicial System, and the Supreme Court established such commission on October 2, 1993; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Commission has been to study the entire Tennessee Judicial System, review the organization and operation of the court system and propose the means for providing effective, efficient and equitable administration of justice into the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has astutely carried out its mission by formulating a utilitarian vision of the structure needed to assure the equitable administration of justice in Tennessee for the next 25 years and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has also formulated specific recommendations with regard to the education, selection, performance, and compensation of lawyers, prosecutors, public defenders, clerks, jurors, judges, and other court system personnel; the organizational structure and operating procedures for the court system; adequate court facilities; and a means of ensuring the credibility and accountability of each component within the entire judicial system; and

WHEREAS, Mr. John Seigenthaler, Chair and Founder of the Freedom Forum First Amendment Center at Vanderbilt University and Chair Emeritus of *The Tennessean*, has served with distinction as the Court's appointed Chairperson of the Commission; and

WHEREAS, each of the other members of the Commission has worked with purpose and commitment and contributed significantly to the product, those estimable members being: Kathryn H. Anderson, Ph. D., Associate Professor of the Department of Economics and Business Administration at Vanderbilt University; Martha S.L. Black, Esquire, an attorney and partner in the firm of Kizer and Black of Maryville; Ms. Cynthia Rawls Bond, President of the Golden Circle Life Insurance Company; G. Gordon Bonnyman, Jr., Esquire, and attorney with the

Tennessee Justice Center and former managing attorney at the Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee; Donald W. Bouldin, Ph. D., Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville; Ms. Susan W. Bowen, President and CEO of Champion Awards, Inc.; Ms. Christine J. Bradley, former Commissioner of Correction and present Chief of Staff to Mayor Phil Bredesen of Nashville; Mr. Melvin T. Burgess, Sr., retired, former Director of Police Services for the Memphis Police Department; the Honorable Charles W. Burson, Attorney General for the State of Tennessee; Lew Conner, Esquire, an attorney and partner in the firm of Boulton, Cummings, Conners and Berry of Nashville; Ms. Andrea Conte, well-known victims' rights advocate and President of "You Have the Power...Know How to Use It, Inc."; Robert L. Crossley, Esquire, an attorney with 40 years of experience who is currently practicing with the firm of Long, Ragsdale and Waters of Knoxville; the Honorable Frank F. Drowota, III, Justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court; Thomas F. Frist, Jr. M.D., Vice-Chairman of the Board, Columbia/HCA Healthcare Corporation; Mr. J. Kenneth Glass, President of the Tennessee Banking Group, First Tennessee Bank National Association; Mr. Michael A. Grant, a motivational consultant and speaker with G&C Motivational Consultants; Monica Moore Hagler, Esquire, City Attorney for Memphis; Mr. John A. Jones, Editor-in-Chief of the *Johnson City Press* and President of Press Holdings Corporation; Mr. Joe Lancaster, CEO Emeritus of Tennessee Farmers Insurance Companies; Mr. Lemuel Lewis, President of WTVF-Channel 5 of Nashville; the Honorable John J. Maddux, Jr., Circuit Court Judge for the 13th Judicial District; Ms. Judith P. Medearis, Circuit Court Clerk of Hamilton County; Mr. James G. Neeley, President of the Tennessee AFL-CIO Labor Council; Mr. Paul Neely, Publisher of *The Chattanooga Times*; the Honorable Clayburn L. Peebles, District Attorney General for the 28th Judicial District; Representative Bill Purcell, House Majority Leader of the Tennessee General Assembly; Mr. M. Lee Smith, Founder and Publisher of M. Lee Smith Publishers and Printers; Mr. William B. Stokely, III, Chairman and President of The Stokely Company; the Honorable Gary R. Wade, Judge of the Tennessee Court

of Criminal Appeals; A.C. Wharton, Jr., Esquire, Chief Public Defender for Shelby County; the Honorable Jane W. Wheatcraft, Criminal Court Judge for the 18th Judicial District; Lieutenant Governor John S. Wilder, Speaker of the Senate of the Tennessee General Assembly; and Richard S. Wirtz, Dean and Professor of Law at the University of Tennessee College of Law; and

WHEREAS, Paul Neely, Publisher of *The Chattanooga Times*, has rendered additional assistance and expertise to the Commission by serving adroitly as Editor of the Commission's final report; and

WHEREAS, the Commission on the Future of the Tennessee Judicial System, with the invaluable assistance of the Court Executive Team, has completed its appointed duties with the utmost integrity, acumen and dedication and the members of this vital body should be appropriately recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby honor the members and staff of the Commission on the Future of the Tennessee Judicial System upon the excellent performance of their appointed duties in proposing means for the equitable administration of justice in Tennessee into the 21st Century and our third century of statehood.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we also commend the members of the Court Executive Team upon their essential role in advising and assisting the Commission in its appointed task.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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